

**Release Notes  
for  
Business Integration  
Appliance Services (BIAS)  
Desktop Application  
Release 4.1**

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# Chapter 1 Introduction

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## Objectives for this release

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- Resolve issues identified in previous releases of BIAS
- Enhance security features
- Improve usability

## Prerequisites

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Before installing this release, your PC must meet the following prerequisites:

- Your PC must have Windows Installer Version 3.1 or greater installed.
- Your PC must have the .NET Framework .NET CLR Version 3.5 SP 1 or greater installed.
- Your PC must be running Windows Vista, Windows XP, Windows 2003 or Windows 2000.



# Chapter 2 Detailed Release Contents

## Enhancements

BIAS Desktop Application 4.1 includes enhancements related to the following features and functions:

- Alerts and monitoring
- Data display, manipulation & export options
- Usability
- Case management
- Rebranding

## Alerts & monitoring

This release of BIAS Desktop includes a tool, called the *Alerts and Monitoring tool*, that displays a high-level view of the status of BIAS processes. This tool uses colors to flag areas that you should investigate for possible issues. For example, Figure 1 shows the Alerts and Monitoring tool displaying information about the status of a host machine. The green color indicates that all of the entries are within acceptable thresholds.

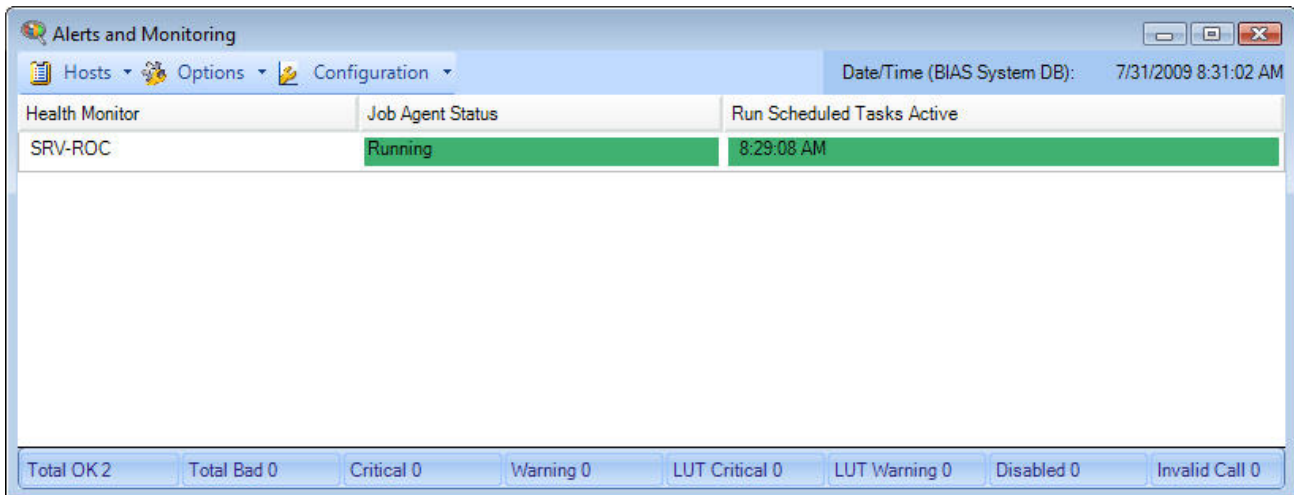


Figure 1 Example of the Alerts and Monitoring tool

You can use the drop-down list in the top left corner of the Alerts and Monitoring tool to specify which type of information you want displayed on the Alerts and Monitoring grid. For example, to view information about the BIAS servers and the amount of free disk space on each one, you would select the Hosts profile. BIAS ships with a set of standard profiles, but you can use the Profile Manager to add, modify and delete profiles.

Designed to help support staff monitor BIAS processing, you can also use the Alerts and Monitoring tool to configure alerts and other notifications. By default, BIAS generates e-mail notifications based on thresholds settings within the Alerts and Monitoring tool. BIAS runs a task to generate these e-mail notifications periodically and distributes the notifications to a defined set of recipients. Typically, administrators configure this task to generate notifications only if there is at least one critical issue. The notifications list all critical issues and warnings. The system also generates one e-mail notification each day to let recipients know that the notification system is working correctly.

In addition to generating e-mail notifications, BIAS can provide input to selected case management tools when particular thresholds are exceeded. Your team can then use the case management tool to track and monitor the issue collaboratively. You can set up the Alerts and Monitoring tool to create cases automatically when particular conditions occur. Each profile includes an option so you can enable this feature for thresholds within a particular profile. Once the feature is enabled for a specific profile, you can use Threshold Manager to select the individual thresholds that you want used to generate cases automatically.

Please refer to the BIAS online help for more information about the Alerts and Monitoring tool. [ID# 46, ID# 131]

## Data drill, display & export options

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This release of BIAS Desktop includes the following enhancements to data drill, display and export options:

- *Hide and restore columns displayed in Smart Grids* – When you right-click on a column, the menu that appears now includes options to hide and restore columns. If you have hidden multiple columns, the restore option lets you select individual columns to restore. [ID# 56]
- *Export Smart Grids and Charts to PDF* – When you have a Smart Grid or Chart displayed and right-click on it, the menu that appears includes the option to Export and then Save to PDF. [ID# 95]
- *Drill when one of the drill criteria is a reformatted or hidden column* – When you have hidden or reformatted a column, BIAS can still use the data in that column as part of its drill criteria. [ID# 105]
- *Export Smart Grids to CSV* – When you have a Smart Grid displayed and right-click on it, the menu that appears includes the option to Export and then Save to CSV. [ID# 106]
- *Duplicate Extract Format and Feed Format* – When you duplicate an Extract Format or a Feed Format, BIAS duplicates all the child rows associated with the format. [ID# 109]

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## Usability

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The release of BIAS Desktop Application 4.1 improves usability in several areas, including navigation within BIAS, preferred user settings and online help.

### Improved menu structure

The BIAS Desktop Application 4.1 offers an improved menu structure that includes an option for direct access to the BIAS Web GUI application. The BIAS menu bar now includes the following options:

- *File* – Unchanged from previous release
- *Designers* – Includes options for Chart, Job Template, Query Builder, Smart Grid and Task Template
- *Configuration* – Includes options for Change Password, Daily DOW Trend Override, Data Lifetimes, Distribution Lists, Error Message Enhancement, Feed Types, Host Information, Named Connections, Named FTP Connections, Permission Groups, Permissions, System Parameters, User Accounts and User Preferences
- *Tools* – Includes options for Alerts and Monitoring, BIAS Web App, Dashboard, Email, Extract Formats, Feed Formats, GfId Maintenance, Grid Views, Images, Logs, Permission Names, Property Bags, Remote Maps, Reports, Resource Slots, Scheduled Tasks and Transformation Formats
- *Window* – Unchanged from previous release
- *Help* – Includes options for About and Online BIAS Help

Note that your permission group determines which BIAS screens you can access, so you might not see all menus or all menu options when you use BIAS. Please refer to the BIAS online help for more information about the options that appear on the BIAS main menu. [ID# 102]

### Support for alternate culture settings

BIAS now supports an alternate culture setting, using the locale/culture setting on your own desktop. This means that calendar controls and dates will reflect the appropriate settings based on your desktop settings. For example, if your desktop culture is set to English – UK, BIAS displays dates in the format DD/MM/YYYY instead of the standard US format (MM/DD/YYYY). [ID# 118]

### Configurable Dashboard

BIAS now supports a configurable Dashboard that can display multiple thumbnails of Smart Grids and Charts simultaneously. You can refresh the grids and charts represented in the thumbnails periodically and can click on a particular grid or chart to make that grid or chart active. You can then perform all the normal drills available for that grid or chart. In a future release, users will be able to configure their own Dashboards, but Ventraq support staff will do the configuration for this release. [ID# 27]

### Enhanced online help

The BIAS online help includes additional procedures and improved search functionality. [ID# 36]

## Case management

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The BIAS Desktop 4.1 release provides enhanced case management, including changes that more fully integrate case and issue management with BIAS. These enhancements include the following features:

- Automatic closing of cases
- Ability to add details, change status and perform other case management tasks from within BIAS
- Ability to include additional details, such as estimated value

This new functionality enables users to open a case, close a case or send an e-mail when a threshold is triggered. [ID# 92, ID# 169]

## Rebranding

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Previous releases of BIAS were branded with 10e Solutions, which is now part of Ventraq, Inc. The 4.1 release of BIAS Desktop reflects the new company name and branding conventions. [ID# 152]

## Resolved issues

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The following table lists the Tracking ID and a brief description for each of the issues resolved in this release.

Tracking ID	Description
54	In previous releases, the Task Template screen opened slowly. With this release, the Task Template screen opens and displays the complete palette in less than one (1) second.
70	Prior to BIAS Desktop Application 4.1, the Find dialog screen for Chart Designer did not work the same way as other Find dialog screens in BIAS. With this release, the Find dialog screen for Chart Designer supports the character-by-character incremental search function available in other Find dialog screens.
71	Previously, the record count that appears in the bottom right corner of the Dashboard indicated the number of records in the last Smart Grid viewed and did not update when users viewed reports. With the release of BIAS Desktop 4.1, the correct record count appears.
73	In previous releases, BIAS would exit if a user double-clicked on a group by row in the Find dialog screen for the Task Template. BIAS Desktop 4.1 resolves this problem.
76	Prior to this release, the Toggle Grid feature in the Task Template turned on the grid, but did not turn off the grid. In BIAS Desktop 4.1, the toggle function works correctly.
78	Previously, BIAS prompted users to enter values for query parameters twice for selected charts. With this release, the prompt appears only once.
81	In previous releases, users were not able to format columns with names greater than 18 characters. With this release, the length for column names was increased to 32 characters, enabling users to enter longer column names without error.
86	Prior to this release, not all columns in Smart Grids were wide enough to contain all the text of a column header and/or the data displayed in the column. With the release of BIAS Desktop 4.1, BIAS considers the contents of both the column headers and the column values when displaying the grid.

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Tracking ID	Description
151	Previously, when the client's host address (IP) changed (for example, due to losing and reconnecting a Virtual Private Network [VPN] connection), the user had to exit from and restart the BIAS Desktop. This issue does not occur in BIAS Desktop 4.1.
183	BIAS date prompts displayed <i>M/D/YY</i> as the value for the prompt and did not allow users to enter a prompt value when the culture was set to EN-US. The release of BIAS Desktop 4.1 resolves this issue.
184	In a previous release, BIAS periodically lost saved layouts when users had pinned charts on the Dashboard. In such cases, BIAS lost the Navigation Console groups that users had set up, reverting to a single group called Uncategorized. This problem does not occur with BIAS Desktop 4.1.

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## Known deficiencies

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- BIAS parameters are not currently validated for adherence to a specific expected data type or value range. Entering an inappropriate value for a parameter will likely cause a SQL syntax error rather than an error which clearly identifies the parameter in error.
- BIAS supports exporting to CSV and PDF formats only for records without child rows. If you try to export a record with child rows, BIAS displays an error message prompting you to select a different Smart Grid.
- Query Builder does not fully support vendor-specific, non-standard SQL syntax.